Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Parks & Recreation

Landscaping /Yard Maintenance

- Where feasible, retain and/or plant native vegetation since it usually requires less maintenance than new vegetation. When planting or replanting consider using flowers, trees, shrubs, and groundcovers that have low water use. Consider alternative landscaping techniques such as naturescaping and xeriscaping.
- Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Read the labels and follow directions to avoid improper use. When applicable, use less toxic pesticides that will do the job and avoid use of copper-based pesticides if possible. Try using organic or non-toxic fertilizer alternative. Do not apply chemicals if it is windy or about to rain. Avoid applying chemical fertilizers and pesticides near curbs, driveways, gutters, ditches, streams or waterbodies. Properly clean up and dispose of spills of chemicals, fertilizers, or soils. If possible, return the spilled material to the container for future use. Store fertilizers and chemicals in closed, waterproof, labeled containers, in a covered area, or off-ground and under protective tarps.
- If using pesticides, follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing their use, storage, and disposal. Follow manufacturers' recommendations and label directions. Prepare the minimum amount of pesticide needed for the job and use the lowest rate that will effectively control the targeted pest. Do not apply any chemicals directly to surface waters and do not spray pesticides within 100 feet of open waters. Employ techniques to minimize off-target application (e.g. spray drift) of pesticides, including consideration of alternative application techniques. Purchase only the amount of pesticide that can reasonably be used in a given time period.
- Follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the use, storage, and disposal of fertilizers. Follow manufacturers' recommendations and label directions. Employ techniques to minimize off-target application (e.g. spray drift) of fertilizer, including consideration of alternative application techniques. Calibrate fertilizer distributors to avoid excessive application. Periodically test soils for determining proper fertilizer use. Fertilizers should be worked into the soil rather than dumped or broadcast onto the surface. Sweep pavement and sidewalk if fertilizer is spilled on these surfaces before applying irrigation water. Use slow release fertilizers whenever possible to minimize leaching.
- Group plants with similar water requirements in order to reduce excess irrigation runoff and promote surface filtration. Irrigate slowly or pulse irrigate so the infiltration rate of the soil is not exceeded. Design the irrigation system to each landscape area's specific water requirements. Adjust irrigation systems to reflect seasonal water needs. Implement landscape plans consistent with County or City water conservation resolutions, which may include water sensors, programmable irrigation times (for short cycles), rain-triggered shutoff devices to prevent irrigation after precipitation and flow reducers or shutoff valves triggered by a pressure drop to control water loss in the event of broken sprinkler heads or lines. Inspect irrigation system regularly for leaks and to ensure that excessive runoff is not occurring. Use popup sprinkler heads in high activity areas or where pipes may be broken. If re-claimed water is used for irrigation, ensure that there is no runoff from the landscaped area(s).
- Dispose of grass clippings, leaves, sticks, or other collected vegetation as garbage at a permitted landfill or by composting as soon as possible. Do not dispose of landscaping wastes in streets, waterways, or storm drainage systems. Place temporarily stockpiled material away from watercourses and storm drain inlets, and berm and/or cover. After landscaping activities, do not sweep or blow clippings and waste into the street or gutter. Avoid hosing down pavement.
- Schedule large landscaping projects for dry weather. Store stockpiles under plastic tarps to protect them from wind and rain. Cover non-vegetated surfaces to prevent erosion. Use mulches in planter areas without ground cover to minimize sediment in runoff. Leave a vegetative barrier along the property boundary and interior watercourses, to act as a pollutant filter, where appropriate and feasible. Develop healthy soil; choose a grass type that thrives in your climate; mow high, often, and with sharp blades; water deeply but not too often.
- Use mechanical methods of vegetation removal such as hand weeding rather than applying herbicides. When conducting mechanical or manual weed control, avoid loosening the soil, which could lead to erosion. Careful soil mixing and layering techniques using a topsoil mix or composted organic material can be used as an effective measure to reduce weeds and watering.
- When possible, use a lawn mower that has a mulcher so that the grass clippings remain on the lawn. Compost materials in a designated area, take clippings to a landfill for composting, or recycle lawn clippings and greenery waste through local programs when available.

Caltrans

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

- For activities involving the removal of vegetation, the limits of disturbance should be defined to minimize adverse effects on vegetation outside the working area. The protection of desirable vegetation provides erosion and sediment control. The following steps should be taken to preserve existing vegetation:
- Vegetation outside the limits of disturbance should be replaced if damaged
- Minimize the number of access and egress points and locate them to reduce damage to existing vegetation
- Maintenance materials and equipment storage and parking areas should be located where they will not cause root compaction
- Keep equipment away from trees to prevent trunk and root damage
- Avoid placing soil around trunks of trees.

Trash Bins

- Post “No Littering” signs and enforce anti-litter laws. Provide a sufficient number of litter receptacles for the facility. Clean out and cover litter receptacles frequently to prevent spillage.
- Keep dumpster areas clean. Recycle materials whenever possible. Ensure that only appropriate solid wastes are added to the solid waste container. Certain wastes such as hazardous wastes, pesticides, etc., may not be disposed of in solid waste containers. Take special care when loading or unloading wastes to minimize losses.
- Inspect dumpsters and trash bins weekly for leaks and to ensure that lids are on tightly. Replace any that are leaking, corroded, or otherwise deteriorating. Sweep and clean the storage area regularly and clean up spills immediately.
- If the dumpster area is paved, do not hose it down to a storm drain. Instead, collect the wash water and discharge it to the sewer if allowed by the local sewer authority. Use dry methods when possible (e.g., sweeping, use of absorbents). Prevent stormwater run-on from entering the dumpster area by enclosing it or building a berm around the area. Prevent waste materials from directly contacting rain. Cover dumpsters to prevent rain from washing waste out of holes or cracks in the bottom of the dumpster.

Restrooms

- Have restrooms connected to the sanitary sewer system where feasible. In areas where sanitary sewer connections are not possible, ensure the septic system adequacy and maintenance.
- Paper towels should be replaced with air dryers, where feasible. Post “No Littering” signs. Provide a sufficient number of litter receptacles and empty receptacles frequently to prevent spillage.
- Develop an educational program to promote visitor compliance with park regulations on facility use and waste disposal.

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Patio, Walkway, Driveway

- Use dry clean-up methods, such as a broom, mop or absorbent material for surface cleaning whenever possible. Do not sweep or blow trash or debris into the street or gutter. Avoid graffiti abatement activities during rain events and use the least toxic materials available (e.g. water based paints, gels or sprays for graffiti removal). Avoid using cleaning products that contain hazardous substances that can create hazardous waste.
- If water must be used for surface cleaning, use it sparingly. Never discharge washwater into the street, a ditch, or storm drain. Determine how you are going to capture the water and where you are going to discharge it before starting the wash job. Capture and collect the washwater and properly dispose of it (i.e., landscaped areas, private sewer system, sanitary sewer system).
- Provide regular training to employees and/or contractors regarding surface cleaning.

Parking Area

Clean parking lots on a regular basis to prevent accumulated wastes and pollutants from being discharged into storm drain systems during rainy conditions. When cleaning heavy oily deposits, use absorbent materials on oily spots prior to sweeping or washing. Dispose of used absorbents appropriately.

Allow sheet runoff to flow into biofilters (vegetated strip and swale) and/or infiltration devices. Utilize sand filters or oleophilic collectors for oily waste in low concentrations. Clean out oil/water/sand separators regularly, especially after heavy storms.

Have designated personnel conduct inspections of the parking facilities and storm drain systems associated with them on a regular basis. Inspect cleaning equipment/sweepers for leaks on a regular basis.

Have spill cleanup materials readily available and in a known location. Cleanup spills immediately and use dry methods if possible. Properly dispose of spill cleanup material.